

Approved as Amended May 13, 2015
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date April 8, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight Tom Isaacson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree Jim Reeder Mark Gershman Kelly Wasserbach Steve Armstead
Greg Seabloom Megan Bowes Lynn Reidel Chad Brotherton Annie McFarland
Mo Valenta Don D'Amico Katy Waechter Deryn Wagner Alyssa Frideres
Cecil Fenio Frances Boulding Leah Case

AGENDA ITEM I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

The newest Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) member, Tom Isaacson, read and signed the Oath of Office.

Frances Hartogh moved to appoint Shelley Dunbar as the chairperson for the Open Space Board of Trustees. Shelley Dunbar moved to appoint Frances Hartogh as the Vice Chair. Tom Isaacson moved to elect Leah Case as the Board Secretary. All motions passed unanimously by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Approval of the Minutes

Shelley Dunbar said on page three, under Agenda Item 7, it should read, “Shelley asked if farming is taking place on the adjacent property owned by OSMP.” On page four, under Agenda Item 8, it should read, “Shelley asked if OSMP has any liability if this gets damaged.”

Frances Hartogh moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from Mar. 11, 2015 as amended. Tom Isaacson seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Pete Palmer, Boulder, read a statement from the Resident Council at the Frasier Meadows Retirement Community. They expressed their support of the South Boulder Creek Action Group's recommendation.

Raymond Bridge, on behalf of Friends of Boulder Open Space (FOBOS), urged staff and the Board to commit to a timeline for the North Trail Study Area (TSA) plan. He said he had expected sideboards to be presented at this meeting, but they did not show up on the agenda. Having these are important for many reasons and compiling these should be routine and not controversial. In addition, the inventory and analysis are necessary for this process and he hopes these stay on track to be completed this month.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – South Boulder Creek Action Group Presentation

David McGuire, on behalf of the South Boulder Creek Action Group, gave a presentation to the Board stating the importance of implementing a flood mitigation process.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from Staff

Management area designation process

Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor gave a presentation to the Board on recommended procedures for establishing management area designations.

Tom Isaacson asked if the on-trail rule is enforced before an ordinance is established on a newly acquired property. Mark said newly acquired properties are typically closed to the public until the management plan has been completed. Shelley asked if the ordinances vary between Habitat Conservation Areas (HCA). Mark said the ordinance simply defines an area as an HCA, but regulations/management can vary between HCAs. Frances Hartogh expressed her concern that the HCA designation of Joder Ranch was not finalized after the Board and City Council voted unanimously for that designation. Mark said his understanding is this area will officially be designated during the North TSA planning process.

Progress Report on Projects

Annie McFarland, Visitor Access Coordinator, updated the Board on the status of the temporary area closure at Skunk Canyon while new trail construction was taking place.

Don D'Amico, Ecological Systems Supervisor, gave an update on the North TSA inventory report.

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, gave the Board an update on various trail projects.

The Board expressed their interest in seeing the layout of the trailhead at Chapman Drive. Frances suggested adding enhanced signage at trailheads which have compostable bins to hopefully encourage people to use the correct receptacle.

Budget Briefing

Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP), said staff will bring the 2016 draft workplan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as an update to the May OSBT meeting. The Board can make recommendations on the CIP at the June OSBT meeting.

Google "Trailview" Project

Tracy Winfree and Mo Valenta, Resource Information Supervisor, showed a preview of Google "Trailview." OSMP is working with Google to begin capturing some OSMP trails for an online virtual experience.

North TSA

Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner, gave an update on the North TSA planning progress.

Shelley asked when the timeline for the resource inventory will be made public, and if it will be available online. Steve said it will likely be online in May. Molly Davis suggested putting signage in the system to give a heads up about this process. Steve confirmed this information will be distributed at various trailheads and access points. Molly asked if there will be any educational hikes on Joder. Steve said yes; a lot of the other educational hikes will also be focused in the North TSA. Kevin suggested providing a survey to anyone who attends a hike to gather additional feedback about these areas.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Matters from the Board

The Board reviewed an editorial that will be sent out regarding the North TSA. Tom and Frances will finalize and submit this document.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – West Trail Study Area Implementation: Towhee/Homestead Trail Reroute Due to 2013 Flood

Annie McFarland gave a presentation on the reroute of the Towhee/Homestead trail in response to the 2013 flood.

Molly asked how wide the Preble's meadow jumping mouse regulatory buffer is. Don said in occupied habitat it is 300 feet on either side of the drainage. He said staff will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before beginning work to identify impacted habitat and finalize the plan. Shelley asked if work would begin this year. Greg Seabloom said yes; staff is scheduled to start in July. Shelley asked if trails will need to be closed during construction. Greg said staff anticipates being able to leave trails open while doing construction; however, if there are any safety considerations staff may implement brief closures.

Public Comment

Suzanne Webel, Boulder County, said she agrees with most of the proposed alignment, but would like to see the lowest section of the Towhee Trail retained in the alignment. Redirecting users to the Mesa Trail will make for a lower visitor quality experience. She offered the help of Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO) to help fix the existing lower portion of the trail.

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said it is concerning that staff is proposing to cut through a habitat that previously did not have a trail. She asked to hear from staff about the ecological resources in this area. She noted that this alignment would also introduce the Voice and Sight regulations from the Homestead Trail to an area that in the past has not allowed dogs; this would impact the resources even further than just human use.

Return to the Board

Don noted that the proposed trail alignment is conceptual which represents a compromise between environmental resources and visitor use. Shelley asked how these alignments would fair in a flood event. Annie said the newly proposed trail alignment would be able to drain water effectively; if staff left the lower section as is, it would not hold up even in a minor weather event.

Motion

Kevin Bracy Knight moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that staff: 1) implement the staff recommendation as shown on Attachment B: Towhee/Homestead Trails – Staff Recommendation and 2) install an interpretive sign highlighting birding opportunities of the area. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.